

However, Forsyth is not a proper prior art reference. The present application is a national stage application of a PCT application filed in the English language on March 3, 2000. This is well before Forsyth's U.S. filing date of August 11, 2000, and also well before the February 12, 2001 publication date of Forsyth's foreign priority document. Thus, Forsyth is not available as a prior art reference under either 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or §102(e) against the present claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that (1) Forsyth is not prior art and cannot be cited against the claims, and (2) Fetner alone does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1 and 3-7. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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